

ALTERNATIVES

- I. Military Escalation aimed at victory.
Expanded military operations, including ground forces, into Cambodia and Laos and perhaps increased troop levels and resumption of bombing, aimed at obtaining withdrawal of all NVA/VC forces in 1-2 years, leaving current GVN in power.
- II. Current Military Posture aimed at victory.
Continue current force levels and pressures, aimed at withdrawal or destruction of all NVA/VC forces and apparatus in acceptable time-frame (1-2 years; but perhaps longer), leaving current GVN in power.
- III. Radical Counter-Insurgency strategy aimed at victory.
Radical restructuring of U.S. forces into small units in joint command with ARVN, and radical reforms of GVN and RVNAF, aimed at neutralizing NVA and VC Main Forces and destroying VC local forces, guerrillas, and apparatus completely in 3-5 years.
- IV. Negotiated Political Compromise.
Seek to negotiate in Paris a compromise overall political settlement in the South leading to U.S. and NVN withdrawal, continuing present military activities (perhaps withdrawing 50,000 men).
- V. Negotiated Mutual Withdrawal.
Seek only to negotiate mutual withdrawal with Hanoi (rather than involving the U.S. directly in negotiations for an internal political settlement), withdrawing and deescalating in accord with negotiations and actual situation in the field, but meanwhile maintaining military activities of current type.
- VI. Substantial Reduction of U.S. Presence while seeking negotiated solution.
Withdraw all but 150,000 troops over next 2 years, while seeking to negotiate mutual withdrawal or political compromise, but making it possible to stay at a lower cost over the long haul.
- VII. Withdrawal of all U.S. forces in 2-3 years.
Firm public commitment to withdraw all U.S. forces from South Vietnam in 2-3 years, and meanwhile to deescalate U.S. operations in the South, whether or not a settlement is reached.
- VIII. Withdrawal of all U.S. forces within 12 months.
Firm public commitment and actions to withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South Vietnam within 12 months whether or not a settlement is reached.